## Regulations

STATE MIGRATORY WATERFOWL PERMIT AND HIP

**PERMIT:** South Carolina waterfowl hunters 16 and older are required by state law to obtain a state migratory waterfowl permit at a cost of \$5.50 and a free Harvest Information Program (HIP) permit. Both permits must be in the hunter's possession while hunting or transporting legal waterfowl.

A state waterfowl permit is included with the Lifetime Senior, Lifetime Gratis and Disability Licenses.

S.C. residents who hold a Lifetime Senior or Lifetime Gratis License are not required to have an HIP (migratory game bird) permit.

The waterfowl permits and HIP permits are available from select DNR offices and from hunting and fishing license agents.

### **SUMMARY OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS:**

**NOTICE:** The material below is only a summary. Each hunter should also consult the actual Federal Regulations which may be found in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20. In addition to State regulations, the following Federal rules apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting, and storing of all migratory game birds and waterfowl:

**RESTRICTION:** No person shall take migratory game birds

- With a trap, snare, net, crossbow, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- From a sink box (a low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).
- From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor driven land conveyance, or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance. "Paraplegic" means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease of or injury to the spinal cord.
- From or by means of any motorboat or sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sail furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- Using records or tapes of migratory bird calls or sounds, or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls.
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in the range of the hunters.
- By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt, or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement), or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of all bait, and it is the responsibility of the hunter to assure that an area is not baited.

## MANIPULATION OF CROPS AND CROPLANDS:

All migratory game birds, including waterfowl, may be hunted on or over standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics); standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice. It is illegal to hunt migratory birds over "top sown" grain.

All migratory game birds EXCEPT waterfowl, may be hunted on or over lands where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown, or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation.

For further information see the brochure titled "South Carolina Waterfowl Hunting and Baiting." For information on normal agricultural operations, contact your local Clemson University Extension Service County Agent.

**CLOSED SEASON:** No person shall take migratory game birds during the closed season.

**SHOOTING OR HAWKING HOURS:** No person shall take migratory game birds except during the hours open to shooting and hawking as prescribed.

**DAILY BAG LIMIT:** No person shall take in any one day more than one daily bag limit.

**FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT:** No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field or while returning from the field to one's car, hunting camp, home, etc.

**WANTON WASTE:** All migratory game birds killed or crippled shall be retrieved, if possible, and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field.

**TAGGING:** No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

- 1. The hunter's signature.
- 2. The hunter's address.
- 3. The total number of birds involved, by species.
- 4. The dates such birds were killed.

No person or business shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

**POSSESSION OF LIVE BIRDS:** Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

**DRESSING:** No person shall completely field dress any migratory game bird (except doves and band-tailed pigeons) and then transport the birds from the field. The head or one fully feathered wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported from the field to one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility.

**SHIPMENT:** No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: (a) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (b) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and (c) the number of birds, by species contained in the package.

**IMPORTATION:** For information regarding the importation of migratory birds killed in another country, hunters should consult 50 CFR 20.61 through 20.66. One fully-feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory game birds being transported between the port of entry and one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility. No person shall import migratory game birds killed in any foreign country, except Canada, unless such birds are dressed (except as required in 20.63), drawn, and the head and feet are removed. No person shall import migratory game birds belonging to another person.

#### FEDERAL MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND

**CONSERVATION STAMP:** Waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and over must have in their possession while hunting, a valid Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (duck stamp) with their signature across the face of stamp.

**DUAL VIOLATION:** Violation of Federal migratory bird regulations is also a violation of State regulations.

**REFERENCE:** Federal regulations related to migratory game birds are located in TITLE 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20

**CAUTION:** More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on Federal regulations, contact Special Agentin-Charge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Strom Thurmond Building, 1835 Assembly St., Columbia, S.C. 29201, 765-5626.

**PENALTIES:** A person convicted in State court for a violation of a migratory bird law is subject to a fine of up to five hundred dollars or imprisonment for up to thirty days. A person convicted in Federal court for a violation of a migratory bird law is subject to a fine of up to fifteen thousand dollars or imprisonment for up to one year.

In addition to any other penalty, convictions for violations of migratory bird laws may carry points against a persons' privilege to hunt and fish. These points are assessed based on the particular violations. Upon accumulating eighteen points, a person loses privileges to hunt and fish for one year. For detailed information related to violations and point assessments, please refer to the 2008-2009 SCDNR Rules and Regulations brochure.

## WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS

**2.3** Entry onto WMA land constitutes consent to an inspection and search of the person, game bag or creel.

**10.1** Unless specially designated by the SCDNR as a Waterfowl or Dove Management Area, all WMAs and Hunt Units are open during the regular season for hunting and taking of migratory birds except where restricted to special small game seasons within the regular migratory bird framework.

10.2 The Department may designate sections of Wildlife Management Areas and other lands and waters under the control of the Department as Designated Waterfowl Management Areas or Designated Dove Management Areas. In addition, the Department may set special shooting hours, bag limits, and methods of hunting and taking waterfowl and doves on those areas. All State and Federal migratory bird laws and regulations apply. Regulations pertaining to the use of Dove Management Areas will be filed annually.

**10.3** On areas where blinds are not provided, only temporary blinds of native vegetation may be constructed, and once vacated become available for others or portable blinds which are removed at the conclusion of the hunt may be used.

**10.4** On Designated Waterfowl Areas, no species other than waterfowl may be taken during waterfowl hunts. On Designated Dove Management Areas no species other than doves may be taken during dove hunts. Only dove hunting is allowed at Lake Wallace

**10.5** No fishing is permitted in any Category 1 Designated Waterfowl Management Area during scheduled waterfowl hunts.

**10.6** The Clarks Hill Waterfowl area is closed to hunting except for waterfowl hunting and other special hunts as designated by the SCDNR

**10.7** Santee Cooper WMA is closed to hunting from October 20 until March 1, except for special hunts designated by the SCDNR.

**10.8** During the period 01 Nov.-01 Mar. except for special hunts designated by the Department, Sandy Beach Waterfowl Area is closed to public access and impoundments on Bonneau Ferry WMA are closed to public access.

**10.9** Broad River Waterfowl Management Area is closed to public access during the period 01 Nov.-01 Feb. except for special hunts designated by the Department.

**10.10** Impoundments on Bear Island, Donnelley, Samworth, Santee Coastal Reserve and Santee Delta WMAs are closed to all public access during the period 15 Oct. - 8 Feb. except during special hunts designated by the Department. All

public access during the period 1 Feb.-14 Oct. is limited to designated areas. On Bear Island WMA, Matthews' Canal is closed to all hunting from Nov. 1 - Feb. 15 beyond a point 0.8 mile from the confluence of Matthews' Canal with the South

10.11 Potato Creek Hatchery Waterfowl Area is closed to all hunting access one week prior to opening of waterfowl season through January 31, except for scheduled waterfowl hunts. No fishing one week prior to opening of waterfowl season through January 31. All hunters must enter and leave the Potato Creek Hatchery Waterfowl Area through the designated public landing on secondary road 260 and complete a data card and deposit card in receptacle prior to leaving the area. Hunting hours are from 30 minutes before legal sunrise to legal sunset (including the special youth hunt). Hunters may not enter the area prior to 3:00 a.m. on hunt days. No airboats are allowed for hunting or fishing and no hunting from secondary road 260.

10.12 Hunters may not enter Hatchery WMA prior to 3 AM and must leave the area by 1 PM. Hunters must enter and leave Hatchery WMA through the Hatchery Landing and accurately complete and deposit a data card in receptacle prior to leaving this area. No airboats are allowed in the Hatchery WMA for hunting or fishing during the period 15 Nov.-31. Jan. No fishing allowed during scheduled waterfowl hunts.

10.14 The Francis Marion National Forest and Crackerneck WMA are open during special small game seasons within the regular migratory bird seasons; Fant's Grove WMA is open AM only on Wednesdays and Saturdays during the regular migratory bird seasons; Palachucola WMA, Tillman Sand Ridge WMA, Hamilton Ridge WMA and Webb WMA are open am only for waterfowl hunting during special small game seasons within the regular migratory bird seasons.

10.15 Category I Designated Waterfowl Areas include Beaverdam, Bonneau Ferry, Broad River, Clemson, Santee Cooper, Sandy Beach, Samworth, Santee Coastal Reserve, Santee-Delta, Tibwin, Bear Island, and Donnelley Wildlife Management Areas. Hunting in Category I Designated Waterfowl Areas is by special permit obtained through annual computer drawing.

10.16 Category II Designated Waterfowl Areas include Biedler Impoundment, Carr Creek (bounded by Samworth WMA), Little Carr Creek (bounded by Samworth WMA), Little Carr Creek (bounded by Samworth WMA), Lake Cunningham, Russell Creek, Monticello Reservoir, Parr Reservoir, Duncan Creek, Dunaway, Dungannon, Enoree River, Moultrie, Hatchery, Hickory Top, Hickory Top Greentree Reservoir, Lancaster Reservoir, Turtle Island, Little Pee Dee River Complex (including Ervin Dargan, Horace Tilghman), Great Pee Dee River, Potato Creek Hatchery, Sampson Island Unit (Bear Island), Tyger River, Marsh, Wee Tee, Woodbury, Ditch Pond, Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve and 40 Acre Rock Waterfowl Management Areas. Hunting on Category II Designated Waterfowl Areas is in accordance with scheduled dates and times.

**10.17** On Hickory Top WMA public waterfowl hunting without a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) permit is allowed on all land and water below 76.8'. Waterfowl hunting at or above elevation 76.8' requires a WMA permit. A WMA permit is required for waterfowl hunting in Hickory Top Greentree Reservoir.

10.19 Hickory Top Greentree Reservoir is closed to all public access Nov. 1 until Mar. 1, except for special hunts designated by SCDNR. All hunters must accurately complete a data card and deposit card in receptacle prior to leaving the area. Hunting hours are from 30 minutes before legal sunrise until 11:00 AM. Hunters may not enter the area prior to 5:00 AM on hunt days. No open season on roads or dikes. Hunters may use only electric motors on boats.

**10.20** On all Category I and II Waterfowl Management Areas each hunter is limited to 25 shells which must be non-toxic (steel, bismuth-tin, bismuth, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-iron or other Federally approved shot) per hunt and no buckshot allowed.

**10.21** On Enoree River, Dunaway, Duncan Creek, Russell Creek and Tyger River Waterfowl Areas data cards are required for hunter access during scheduled waterfowl hunts. Completed data cards must be returned daily upon leaving each of these areas

**10.22** Woodbury Waterfowl Management Area includes all SCDNR-owned property south of US Hwy 378 and bounded on the west by the Great Pee Dee River and Bluff Road and to the east by the Little Pee Dee River except no waterfowl hunting allowed in the area known as Hass Pond that is bounded on all sides by Hass Pond Road.

#### TO REPORT BIRD BANDS CALL 1-800-327-BAND

S.C. COMMEMORATIVE WATERFOWL STAMP ORDER FORM To order S.C. Duck Stamps, please complete this form and mail to the address below. Please send me:							
QTY.	QTY.						
	Full sheets of 30 stamps at \$165.00						
	Corner blocks of 4 stamps at \$22.00						
	Single stamps at \$5.50 each						
	Total						
Name							
Address							
City/State/Zip							
Mail this form and your check to SCDNR, Duck Stamps, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, S.C. 29202-0167.							
Commemorative stamps are not valid for hunting.							

#### <sup>1</sup>YOUTH-ONLY WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

State Youth Day: Dec. 6, 2008. Only hunters 17 years of age or younger may hunt waterfowl (ducks, geese, mergansers and coots) on this day. The youth(s) must be accompanied by an adult of at least 21 years of age. The adult is not allowed to carry a gun or hunt, but must be properly licensed, including state and federal duck stamps and a HIP Permit. Youth who are 16 and 17 years of age who hunt on this day are not required to be licensed or have a state waterfowl stamp but must possess a Federal Waterfowl Stamp. Daily and possession bag limits are as indicated except only one scaup may be taken as part of the 6-bird bag.

Federal Youth Days: Jan. 31 & Feb. 1, 2009. Only hunters 15 years of age or younger may hunt waterfowl (ducks, geese, mergansers and coots) on these days. The youth(s) must be accompanied by an adult of at least 18 years of age. The adult is not allowed to carry a gun or hunt, and does not have to be licensed. Daily and possession bag limits are as indicated except only two scaup may be taken as part of the 6-bird bag.

<sup>2</sup> Sea Ducks may be hunted only in Atlantic Ocean waters separated from any shore, island or emergent vegetation by at least one mile of open water, except during the regular duck season.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes all of Clarendon County, that portion of Orangeburg County North of SC Highway #6 and that portion of Berkeley County North of SC Highway # 45 from the Orangeburg County Line to the junction of SC Highway # 45 and State Road S-8-31 and that portion West of the Santee Dam.

## Restrictions

SHOOTING HOURS ARE UNIFORM STATEWIDE NO OPEN SEASON ON SWANS.

**HUNTING WATERFOWL IS PROHIBITED WITHIN CERTAIN DISTANCES OF RESIDENCES ON PORTIONS** OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING BODIES OF WATER:

- Gills Creek in Lancaster County
- Bear Creek in Lancaster County
- Lake Murray
- Lake Greenwood Lake Wateree
- Lake Marion
  - The cove immediately to the SE of the Indian Bluff Recreation site.
  - Potato Creek
  - Wyboo Creek
  - Public waters in Calhoun County from the confluence of the Congaree and Wateree Rivers downstream to Poplar Creek.
  - The coves immediately to the East of St Julien Subd. Extension and Cypress Shores Marina.
- 7. Murrell's Inlet Creek in Georgetown County

Please contact your local Conservation Officer for specific information

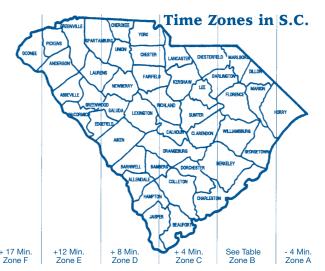
SPECIAL FALCONRY SEASON: Falconry is a permitted means of taking ducks, coots and mergansers in South Carolina. The season for falconry shall be Oct. 24 through Nov. 25 and Dec. 1 - Dec. 5 and Dec. 7 through Dec. 11. Daily bag and possession limits for these birds shall not exceed 3 and 6 birds, respectively, singly or in the aggregate. Statewide hunting hours shall be one half hour before

sunrise to sunset NONTOXIC SHOT REGULATIONS: The possession of lead shot is prohibited for all waterfowl hunting, statewide. Nontoxic shot (steel, bismuth, or other Federally approved shot) is required for all waterfowl hunting. No shot smaller than no. 2 or larger than F shot is allowed for goose hunting.

SPECIES	OPEN DATES (All dates inclusive)	SHOOTING HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT		
	Sept. 1 — Sept. 6	12 Noon until Sunset				
Mourning Dove	Sept. 7 — Oct. 4 Nov. 22 — Nov. 29 Dec. 19 — Jan. 15	1/2 Hour before Sunrise until Sunset	15	30		
Marsh Hens/Rails (Clapper, King, Sora & Virginia)	Sept. 15 — Sept. 20 Oct. 13 — Dec. 15	1/2 Hour before Sunrise until Sunset	15 (King & Clapper) 25 (Sora & Va.)	30 (King & Clapper) 25 (Sora & Va.)		
Early Teal	Sept. 19 — Sept. 27	Sunrise until Sunset	4	8		
Woodcock	odcock Jan. 2 — Jan. 31		3	6		
Common Snipe (Wilson's)	Nov. 14 — Feb. 28	1/2 Hour before Sunrise until Sunset	8	16		
Common Moorhens & Purple Gallinules	Sept. 15 — Sept. 20 Oct. 13 — Dec. 15	1/2 Hour before Sunrise until Sunset	15	30		
Early Canada Geese (Statewide)	Sept.1 — Sept. 30	1/2 Hour before Sunrise until Sunset	15	30		
Ducks (Excluding Sea Ducks) (No open season on Canvasbacks)	Nov. 26 — Nov. 30 Dec. 12 — Jan. 25	1/2 hour before Sunrise until Sunset	6 total, including no more than 4 mallards (1 hen), 1 pintail, 1 fulvous whistling duck, 1 black-bellied whistling duck, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads and 1 black duck or 1 mottled duck. The 6 total shall include no more than 1 scaup for the period Nov. 26-Nov. 30 and Dec. 12-Jan. 5. The 6 total shall include no more than 2 scaup for the period Jan 6-Jan. 25.	12 total, including no more than 8 mallards (2 hens), 2 pintails, 2 fulvous whistling ducks, 2 black-bellied whistling ducks, 6 wood ducks, 4 redheads, (2 black ducks or 2 mottled ducks or 1 black duck and 1 mottled duck). The 12 total shall include no more than 2 scaup for the period Nov. 26-Nov. 30 and Dec 12-Jan. 5. The 12 total shall include no more than 4 scaup for the period Jan. 6-Jan. 25.		
<sup>1</sup> State Youth Waterfowl Day	Dec. 6	1/2 hour before Sunrise until Sunset	Same as Ducks	Same as Ducks		
<sup>1</sup> Federal Youth Waterfowl Days	Jan. 31 — Feb. 1	1/2 hour before Sunrise until Sunset	Same as Ducks	Same as Ducks		
Mergansers	Nov. 26 — Nov. 30 Dec. 12 — Jan. 25	1/2 hour before Sunrise to Sunset	5 (not to include more than 1 hooded merganser)	<b>10</b> (not to include more than 2 hooded mergansers)		
<sup>2</sup> Sea Ducks eiders, scotors & long-tailed ducks	Oct. 11 — Jan. 25	1/2 hour before Sunrise to Sunset	7 (not to include more than 4 scoters)	14 (not to include more than 8 scoters)		
Coots	Nov. 26 — Nov. 30 Dec. 12 — Jan. 25	1/2 hour before Sunrise to Sunset	15	30		
<sup>3</sup> Canada Geese/White Fronted Geese (Late seasons)	Nov. 26 — Nov. 30 Dec. 12 — Jan. 30 Feb. 2 — Feb. 15	1/2 hour before Sunrise to Sunset	5 (not to include more than 2 white-fronted geese).	10 total (not to include more than 4 white-fronted geese).		
Blue & Snow geese	Nov. 26 — Nov. 30 Dec. 12 — Jan. 25	1/2 hour before Sunrise to Sunset	15	No limit		
Brant	Nov. 26 — Nov. 30	1/2 hour before	3	6		

Sunrise to Sunset





Dec. 12 — Jan. 25

Knowing the exact time of sunrise and sunset is critical to setting hunting activities by the natural time clock. The map shows six time zones for our state. Sunrise and sunset for Zone B are shown in the ZONE B table. To determine the exact sunrise and sunset time for zones A, C. D, E, and F, add or subtract the minutes shown for each zone on the map to the time shown in the ZONE B table. EXAMPLE ONLY - November 1, Zone B sunrise = 7:38 a.m. For Zone A sunrise subtract four (-4) minutes = 7:34 a.m.

Zone B - Eastern Standard Time

Zone D - Lastern Standard Time												
	SEPTE	MBER	ОСТС	BER	NOVE	MBER	DECE	MBER	JANL	JARY	FEBR	UARY
DAY	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
1	654	745	714	705	737	629	704	513	722	524	715	552
2	655	744	714	704	738	628	705	513	723	525	714	553
3	656	742	715	702	739	627	706	513	723	526	714	554
4	656	741	716	701	640	526	707	513	723	527	713	555
5	657	740	716	700	641	526	707	513	723	527	712	556
6	658	738	717	658	642	525	708	513	723	528	712	557
7	658	737	718	657	643	524	709	513	723	529	711	558
8	659	736	719	656	644	523	710	513	723	530	710	559
9	659	734	719	654	644	523	710	514	723	531	709	559
10	700	733	720	653	645	522	711	514	723	532	708	600
11	701	732	721	652	646	521	712	514	723	532	707	601
12	701	730	721	651	647	521	713	514	723	533	706	602
13	702	729	722	650	648	520	713	514	723	534	705	603
14	703	728	723	648	649	519	714	515	723	535	705	604
15	703	726	724	647	650	519	715	515	723	536	704	605
16	704	725	724	646	651	518	715	515	722	537	703	606
17	705	724	725	645	652	518	716	516	722	538	702	607
18	705	722	726	644	653	517	717	516	722	539	701	607
19	706	721	727	642	653	517	717	517	722	540	700	608
20	706	720	728	641	654	516	718	517	721	541	668	609
21	707	718	728	640	655	516	718	518	721	542	657	610
22	708	717	729	639	656	515	719	518	720	543	656	611
23	708	716	730	638	657	515	719	519	720	543	655	612
24	709	714	731	637	658	515	720	519	720	544	654	613
25	710	713	732	636	659	514	720	520	719	545	653	613
26	710	711	732	635	700	514	720	520	719	546	652	614
27	711	710	733	634	701	514	721	521	718	547	651	615
28	712	709	734	633	701	514	721	522	718	548	650	616
29	712	707	735	632	702	514	721	522	717	549		
30	713	706	736	631	703	513	722	523	716	550		
31			737	630			722	524	716	551		
This chart has been adjusted for Daylight Sayings Time, EST = Eastern Standard Time												

This chart has been adjusted for Daylight Savings Time. EST = Eastern Standard Time



# **South Carolina** MIGRATORY BIRD **REGULATIONS**



**Get your Harvest Information Permit** from any local licensing agent. It's easy. It's required. And it's free.

**Licenses now** available 24 hours a day 1-866-714-3611 www.dnr.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, gender, color, national origin, disability, religion or age. Direct all inquiries to the Office of Human Resources, PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202.

